

REMARKS

Claims 1-55 are pending in the above-captioned patent application after this amendment. Claims 1-55 have been rejected. Claims 1-22, 26-47 and 51-53 have been rejected. Claims 23-25, 48-50, 54, and 55 have been objected to.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of claims 23-25, 48-50, 54, and 55. However, the Applicant has amended claims 23 and 32 with this amendment for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the goals of the Patent Office (65 Fed. Reg. 54603), and/or to clarify what the Applicant regards as the present invention.

Support for the amendments to claims 23 and 32 can be found throughout the originally filed specification, including the originally filed claims. No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment. Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested.

INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

On August 31, 2006, the undersigned attorney for the applicant conducted a couple of telephonic interviews with the Examiner, Kevin C. Gutierrez to discuss the objections to Claims 23-25, 48-50, 54, and 55. During the second interview, the Examiner agreed that claims in the fashion of Claims 23-25, 48-50, 54, and 55 are allowable and that he would review the claims after a response is filed. The Applicant wants to thank the Examiner for his time during these interviews.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 23-25, 48-50, 54, and 55 have been objected to by the Patent Office under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim..

In response, the Applicant has amended claim 23 to further limit the subject matter of the previous claim. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 23 is believed to be overcome.

Claim 24 is directed to a process for manufacturing a device including the active steps of "providing a substrate" and "transferring an image onto the substrate with the exposure apparatus of claim 23." Somewhat similarly, claim 25 is directed to a process for manufacturing a wafer including the active steps of "providing a substrate" and

“transferring an image onto the substrate with the exposure apparatus of claim 23.” These active steps further limit the subject matter of the previous claim. Accordingly, the objection to these claims should be withdrawn.

Additionally, the Applicant respectfully traverses the objection of claims 48, 49 and 50. In particular, claim 48 is directed to a method for making an exposure apparatus that includes the active steps of “providing an irradiation apparatus that irradiates the wafer with radiation to form the image on the wafer;” and “providing the stage assembly made by the method of claim 26.” Further, claim 49 is directed to a method for making a wafer that includes the additional active steps of “providing a substrate” and “transferring an image onto the substrate with the exposure apparatus made by the method of claim 48.” Somewhat similarly, claim 50 is directed to a method for making a device that includes the additional active steps of “providing a substrate” and “transferring an image onto the substrate with the exposure apparatus made by the method of claim 48”. These active steps further limit the subject matter of the previous claim. Accordingly, the objection to these claims should be withdrawn.

Moreover, the Applicant respectfully traverses the objection of claims 54 and 55. In particular, claim 54 is directed to a method for making a wafer that includes the additional active steps of “providing a substrate” and “transferring an image onto the substrate with the exposure apparatus made by the method of claim 53.” Somewhat similarly, claim 55 is directed to a method for making a device that includes the additional active steps of “providing a substrate” and “transferring an image onto the substrate with the exposure apparatus made by the method of claim 53”. These active steps further limit the subject matter of the previous claim. Accordingly, the objection to these claims should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-55 are patentable for the reasons set forth above, and that the application is now in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 858-456-1951 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Dated this 16th day of September 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S G R', is positioned above the printed name.

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